

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) A method for sharing system network objects between computers, each system network object having multiple copies stored at different computers, comprising:

providing a shared context, the shared context having a unique identifier, a number of associated system network objects, identifications of computers that store copies of each system network object, and security permissions indicating access rights of computers to the context and the system network objects;

receiving from a first computer a request to join the shared context identified by the unique identifier;

in response to receiving from the first computer a request to join the shared context, determining whether the first computer has permission to join the shared context and if the first computer has permission to join the shared context, granting permission to the first computer to join the shared context; and

after the first computer has joined the shared context,

receiving from the first computer a request to modify a first system network object associated with the shared context;

in response to receiving from the first computer a request to modify a first system network object associated with the shared context, determining whether the first computer has permission to modify the first system network object and if the first computer has permission to modify the first system network object, granting permission to the first computer to modify the first system network object;

when the first computer has been granted permission to modify the first system network object, determining whether each computer that

stores a copy of the first system network object as indicated by the shared context is available to modify its copy;

when it is determined that each computer that stores a copy of the first system network object is available to modify its copy, synchronizing the first system network object by notifying each computer that stores a copy of the first system network object of the modification so that each computer can modify its copy of the first system network object; and

when at least one computer that stores a copy of the first system network object is not available to modify its copy, not modifying any copies of the first system network object.

20. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the request to modify a first system network object includes a request to invoke a method of the first system network object.

21. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the first computer stores at least one copy of the first system network object.

22. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the first computer does not store a copy of the first system network object.

23. (New) The method of claim 19 further comprising notifying computers associated with the shared context when the first computer joins the shared context.

24. (New) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for sharing system network objects between computers, each system network object having multiple copies stored at different computers, by a method comprising:

providing a shared context, the shared context having a number of associated system network objects;

receiving from a first computer a request to join the shared context;

determining whether the first computer has permission to join the shared context and if the first computer has permission to join the shared context, granting permission to the first computer to join the shared context; and

after the first computer has joined the shared context,

receiving from the first computer a request to modify a first system network object associated with the shared context;

determining whether the first computer has permission to modify the first system network object and if the first computer has permission to modify the first system network object, granting permission to the first computer to modify the first system network object;

when the first computer has been granted permission to modify the first system network object, determining whether each computer that stores a copy of the first system network object is available to modify its copy; and

when it is determined that each computer that stores a copy of the first system network object is available to modify its copy, synchronizing the first system network object by notifying each computer that stores a copy of the first system network object of the modification so that each computer can modify its copy of the first system network object.

25. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 24 wherein the shared context further comprises identifications of computers that store copies of each system network object and security permissions indicating access rights of computers to the context and the system network objects.

26. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 24 wherein the request to modify a first system network object includes a request to invoke a method of the first system network object.

27. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 24 wherein the first computer stores at least one copy of the first system network object.

28. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 24 wherein the first computer does not store a copy of the first system network object.

29. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 24 further comprising notifying computers associated with the shared context when the first computer joins the shared context.

30. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 24 wherein when at least one computer that stores a copy of the first system network object is not available to modify its copy, none of the copies of the first system network object are modified.

31. (New) A computer system for sharing system network objects between computers, each network object having multiple copies stored at different computers, the system comprising:

- a component that provides a shared context, the shared context having a number of associated system network objects;

- a component that receives from a first computer a request to join the shared context;

- a component that determines whether the first computer has permission to join the shared context and if the first computer has permission to join the shared context, grants permission to the first computer to join the shared context;

- a component that, after the first computer has joined the shared context, receives from the first computer a request to access a first system network object associated with the shared context; and determines whether the first computer has permission to access the first system network object and if the first computer has permission to access the first system network object, grants

permission to the first computer to access the first system network object; and
a component that synchronizes the copies of the first system network object by sending notification to each computer that stores a copy of the first network object.

32. (New) The computer system of claim 31 wherein the shared context further comprises identifications of computers that store copies of each system network object and security permissions indicating access rights of computers to the context and the system network objects.

33. (New) The computer system of claim 31 wherein the request to access a first system network object includes requesting to invoke a method of the first system network object.

34. (New) The computer system of claim 31 further comprising a component that associates at least one system network object stored on the first computer with the shared context when the first computer joins the shared context.

35. (New) The computer system of claim 31 wherein the first computer does not store a copy of the first system network object.

36. (New) The computer system of claim 31 further comprising notifying computers associated with the shared context when the first computer joins the shared context.

37. (New) The computer system of claim 31 wherein the request to access a first system network object includes a request to modify the first system network object.

38. (New) The computer system of claim 31 wherein the component that synchronizes further comprises:

- a component that after the first computer has been granted permission to modify the first system network object, determines whether each computer that stores a copy of the first system network object is available to modify its copy; and

- a component that when it is determined that each computer that stores a copy of the first system network object is available to modify its copy synchronizes the first system network object by notifying each computer that stores a copy of the first system network object of the modification so that each computer can modify its copy of the first system network object and when at least one computer that stores a copy of the first system network object is not available to modify its copy, does not modify any copies of the first system network object.